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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ISLAMABAD 016837

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SOUTH ASIA RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM
SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE
DCHA/FFP FOR JONATHAN DWORKE
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD
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SUBJECT: CRITICAL NON-FOOD RELIEF SUPPLIES: WHAT IS STILL
NEEDED

REF: ISLAMABAD 016642

Summary: Drawing on the latest Government of Pakistan Federal Relief Commission (FRC) documents, information from the UN, and discussions with NGO partners, the DART undertook an analysis of the current requirements, supply, and pipeline for certain key non-food items, in order to determine where critical shortfalls exist, as a follow-up to discussion in REFTEL. This cable summarizes the current situation with regard to a number of critical items, and reviews OFDA efforts to address shortfalls where necessary. While it is difficult to identify shortfalls with any degree of precision, it appears that while there may be an overall surplus of tents in general, properly winterized tents (both family sized and larger ones) remain in short supply. End summary.

¶1. DART staff has reviewed documents from the Government of Pakistan Federal Relief Commission (FRC), information from various UN reports, and input from a number of NGO implementing partners, in order to evaluate current requirements and available supplies for a number of critical non-food items. These include tents, blankets, stoves, plastic sheeting, corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets, and plywood.

¶2. While the overall number of available tents is close to the FRC requirement, most of these are not designed for cold weather, and sufficiently winterized tents remain in short supply. Estimates of total tents now distributed, in warehouses awaiting distribution, and in the pipeline (with estimated delivery by 30 November) vary from 500,000 to over 600,000. The current overall requirement, according to the FRC, is 473,000, suggesting a surplus ranging from 25,000 to over 100,000. Several caveats should be noted regarding these numbers. On the one hand, UN OCHA believes that many tents have been double counted, because of both donors and implementing NGOs taking credit for the same tents, which would reduce the available supply. Also, a number of tents were evidently lost during airdrops to remote areas. On the other hand, the pipeline estimate does not include additional surplus tents from DOD (over 3,000) which we anticipate receiving. In addition, the FRC tent requirement has not been adjusted downward to account for various non-tent shelter-in-place solutions (plastic sheeting, CGI roofs, etc.).

¶3. In addition to small (family-sized) tents, there is still a major requirement for large tents that can serve as schools or medical clinics. The GOP estimates that over 6,000 schools were destroyed, and another 5,500 damaged, in the two affected provinces, as well as over 350 health facilities. Based on this damage, the GoP has projected a need for 30,000 large tents as a subset of the overall requirement. We have provided about 300 military GP Medium and Large tents to NGO partners, and several hundred more are in the DOD pipeline. We are now in the process of bringing in over 100 large high altitude tents from Alaska for the Government of Pakistan, and over 450 large tents, now in Kabul, for the Pakistani NGO RSPN. The FRC has not provided an estimate of current and projected supplies for large tents. The DART believes that the anticipated US contribution will not be sufficient to close the gap, and will continue to seek additional DOD tents and encourage other donors to contribute large tents.

14. The requirement for blankets is somewhat ambiguous. FRC estimates a total requirement of 3.3 million, with over 2.7 million now provided. According to UN OCHA, there are about 400,000 more in the pipeline. However, the FRC just this week halved its blanket requirement (from 6.6 million), and identified a new requirement for an equal number of mattresses (3.3 million). There are no figures available on current or projected supplies of mattresses. Some NGO partners are providing foam pads, which they are easily sourcing locally, while others are providing extra blankets (anywhere from two to five per recipient) instead of mattresses. As such, we can assume an outstanding blanket requirement of anywhere from 200,000 to over 2 million. Discussions with NGO partners indicate that, although there may not be sufficient blankets available in Pakistan, there are more stocks in the region that may be accessed. About 200,000 additional blankets have been identified in DOD stocks for this operation. If needed by NGOs, DART logistics team has found several local sources for commercial procurement of blankets.

15. Small stoves for cooking and heating are another new item recently added by the FRC. Their estimate is identical to the tent requirement (473,000), suggesting one stove per household. However, NGO partners believe that a significant number of people, at least 20 percent, would have kept stoves from their permanent homes, reducing the overall requirement.

Again, there is no way of accurately estimating the current supply or pipeline. Some NGOs are procuring propane stoves, for use in urban areas at lower altitudes where gas supply is possible, while most are looking at wood burning, Bukhari type stoves. Some NGOs have found that these are now in short supply in Pakistan, and lead times are too long (45 days or more). DART Logistics has found local commercial sources if needed by NGOs, and such stoves can be procured in India and other countries in the region.

16. In addition to items identified by FRC, DART has looked into the availability of several other critical commodities. One item consistently requested by partners is additional USAID specification plastic sheeting (in fact, one NGO alone requested 2000 to 4000 rolls). To date we have provided 6,150 rolls of sheeting to NGOs, but given its multiple uses the requirement is significantly higher. DART is now procuring on a test basis 5,000 locally produced plastic tarps (roughly equivalent to 450 rolls, though of a thinner grade) for implementing partners, and has identified other commercial sources for such sheeting. Already two implementing partners alone are in the process of procuring over 35,000 sheets of such plastic. While this thinner plastic may not be ideal, the DART does not at this time anticipate a need to completely exhaust all worldwide OFDA stocks of plastic sheeting for this operation.

17. A second item which is essential to our shelter strategy is corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) for roofing of damaged houses. DART has conducted a market analysis of locally available CGI and provided this info to implementing partners. Several NGOs are already procuring CGI from these and other sources. In addition, the Government of Pakistan is making major purchases of CGI itself to support shelter. The DART does not anticipate a requirement to import CGI from the US or other sources outside the region.

18. Finally, the DART has looked into available sources of plywood, which are critical to construction of latrines. Both DART assessments and discussions with implementing partners indicate that latrines are in dreadfully short supply. Failure to address this need rapidly will exacerbate public health problems, especially in tented camps. DART is now procuring 500 sheets of plywood locally, which will probably be provided to UNICEF. In addition the US Navy Engineers (Seabees) now operating at Muzaffarabad are constructing latrines. DART Logistics has identified local commercial sources of plywood for our NGO partners.

19. In addition to supplies of key commodities, the FRC has identified other critical requirements that are quantified by budget figures rather than numbers of items. In the water/sanitation sector, the FRC estimates \$10 million is needed for water tankers, pumps, generators, purification tablets, trucks and incinerators. This figure, however, does not include any funding for construction of latrines. In the public health sector, the FRC has estimated that \$8.5 million is needed for immunizations, disease surveillance, drugs, medical equipment, and vector control. The donors, conference scheduled for November 19 will address these and other longer term sectoral needs in much greater detail.

10. In the next few weeks, the Government of Pakistan, UN, and NGOs will undertake a major effort to move critical supplies to vulnerable earthquake affected areas before the onset of winter. It is expected that estimates of anticipated supplies and shortfalls of key items will change, as more items are distributed and the better information is available from the field. The DART will continue to refine

its analysis and report on the changing situation in the weeks to come.

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